

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

With this Amendment, claims 1 and 18 are amended, and claims 22 and 23 are canceled as attached.

As the Examiner indicated that claim 23 is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 22, Applicant amends claim 1 such that claim 23 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 22, and substitutes for existing claim 1. Accordingly, claims 22 and 23 are canceled.

Claim 18 is also rewritten as the Examiner indicates that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Because this Amendment rewrites allowable subject matter in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment raises no issues requiring further consideration, and therefore the claims including amended claims should be passed to issue.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/081,242

Attorney Docket No.: Q68493

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

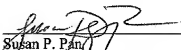
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
Susan P. Pano  
Registration No. 41,239

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